

---

# N E W S L E T T E R

---

---

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

---

Volume 16 Number 1

January/February 2001

---

## E-BOOKS: THEY'RE HEEEEERE!

The concept of books in electronic, downloadable format has been an exciting prospect for public libraries. The ability to expand patrons' selection of reading material without adding additional shelf space is appealing – indeed, digital books offer the possibility of a true library without limits. Enter the e-book.

Simply, an e-book is reading material that is available in electronic, machine-readable format. Storage space is minimal, since paper copies are eliminated, and presumably, the price of an e-book is lower since publishers do not incur printing and distribution costs.

Of greatest interest to libraries has been the emergence of netLibrary, which claims to be the world's most comprehensive collection of e-books. Through netLibrary, libraries can purchase e-books and allow patrons to read them online or download them to be read on the patron's own computer. With over 19,000 titles, the collection is primarily reference titles, literary classics, and travel guides. Most libraries which offer e-books today do so through netLibrary.

Skeptics note that reading text from a screen cannot possibly be as satisfying as the feel of an actual book. For netLibrary users, this does not seem to be a significant issue – the texts available tend to be those that are not read cover to cover.

The real excitement, however, lies in the technology that enables a huge amount of text to be stored and displayed on a small, portable device. And the future is here! E-book readers, introduced in 1998, overcome many of the barriers of the computer screen and offer advantages as well. E-book readers, typically the size and weight of a bound book, have the capacity to store around 4000 pages, or the equivalent of ten books – great for travel! Text is displayed on a high-resolution backlit screen.

E-book readers offer other features such as the ability to adjust the font size, search and find functions, and an on-line dictionary.

How does it work? Using a phone line, a user can dial into a server and download a book for a credit card charge. After a book is read, it is deleted in order to clear space for additional titles.

Gemstar International Group recently purchased companies that produced the two premier e-book readers, Rocket and SoftBook. In turn, the company has developed the next generation – RCA's REB1100, weighing 18 ounces and the size of a paperback book, and the REB1200, which is larger and heavier, but includes more features (including a leather-bound cover). These models retail for \$299 and \$599, respectively, although the price is expected to drop to under \$100 within five years.

Gemstar has signed agreements with several major publishers to make their material available on an exclusive basis in e-book format for 90 days prior to its availability in any other format – for a higher fee. When a title is available in paperback, the cost of the e-book format will drop to the paperback price.

By controlling the hardware and much of the software, Gemstar appears to be positioned to take control of the e-book market. But the Microsoft Corporation, which offers free Microsoft Reader software that can download digital books from barnesandnoble.com and Amazon.com into its Pocket PCs, makes available e-titles that are significantly less expensive than their print counterparts.

Many questions surround e-books. Only one is answered definitively – the tide of e-books is one that won't be turned back.

## WHAT IF ALL KENTUCKY READS THE SAME BOOK?

Will people rediscover the joy of reading? Will libraries and bookstores become the hottest spots in town? Who knows what it might lead to?



KET's monthly series *bookclub@ket* is working with partners around the state to see what happens when everyone reads the same book: Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*. In addition to

showcasing great literature originating in Kentucky, the campaign is designed to create excitement and a sense of community that crosses age, geography, and economic divisions.

As well as the airing the regular *bookclub@ket* discussion of the book in May, Barbara Kingsolver will appear in a call-in program, and KET will rebroadcast the biography produced about her in the *Signature* series. In addition, WFPL, a public radio station in Louisville, will make two Barbara Kingsolver programs available to public radio stations across the state.

Public libraries can participate in a number of ways – by sponsoring a book discussion group, by helping to publicize the program, by providing this novel to patrons. More than a dozen public libraries have signed on as partners – more are needed. For more information, e-mail Tona Barkley at <TBarkley@ket.net>.

## VIDEOTAPES OF PAST PROGRAMS

Past programs of *bookclub@ket* are available on videocassette. To purchase a videotape, call KET Tape Duplication at (800) 945-9167. For a complete list of *bookclub@ket* titles, see <[www.ket.org/content/bookclub/booklist.htm](http://www.ket.org/content/bookclub/booklist.htm)>.

## CATALOGING TIP

The Library of Congress has made a change to a subject heading that will affect every library's catalog. The decision was made in November to abolish the heading **Afro-Americans** and replace it with **African Americans**. This heading should be applied to works about citizens of the United States who are of black African descent. Works about black persons who are temporarily living in the United States, such as students from abroad and immigrants, are entered under **Blacks – United States**. Bibliographic records will be updated in 2001.

We are always glad to help with any of your cataloging questions. Please call or e-mail anytime!

-- Myra Prewitt  
502.564.8300, ext. 227  
[myra.prewitt@kdla.net](mailto:myra.prewitt@kdla.net)

## COOL WEB SITE

Library students in the distance learning program offered by the University of Arizona have created a remarkable web site. *Rural Library Resources* contains information on topics such as collection development, funding, and intellectual freedom. The creators all work in rural libraries. Check it out at <[www.sir.arizona.edu/sp97/560/web/RuralPLibs/rural5.html](http://www.sir.arizona.edu/sp97/560/web/RuralPLibs/rural5.html)>.

*Kentucky Public Library Newsletter* is published bi-monthly by the Field Services Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and your Regional Librarian. Correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Marjorie Flowers, KDLA/Green River/Pennyrile Regional Office, 450 Griffith Avenue, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Phone 270.687.7316; Fax 270.687.7351; e-mail: [marjorie.flowers@kdla.net](mailto:marjorie.flowers@kdla.net).

*Serving Kentucky's Need to Know*



An agency of the Education, Arts & Humanities Cabinet

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL LIBRARIES

### Millennium Project for Public Libraries

The Millennium Project for Public Libraries is an initiative funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to help public libraries enrich their core collections of American literature and history and to offer programs to enhance the public's appreciation of great American writing.

The Millennium Project will provide fifty Library of America volumes to small, rural, suburban, and urban branch libraries that normally would not be able to afford these volumes or to carry out community programming featuring these volumes. The 50-volume Millennium Project set is valued at approximately \$1,795.

To be eligible, public libraries must agree to pay \$250 toward the cost of the 50-volume set. These funds can come from the book budget, a Friends group, a business, or a foundation. Libraries must also organize a program or event to make the community aware of the nature and content of the Library of America volumes, get the volumes into patrons' hands, and encourage long-term use.

Libraries with annual book budgets under \$50,000 are preferred, but libraries with larger book budgets will be considered.

The application and review process will be carried out electronically. The deadline for application is 5:00 P.M. on April 1, 2001. For more information and to apply on line, go to [www.neh.gov/millenniumlibraries](http://www.neh.gov/millenniumlibraries).

### Books for Children

The Libri Foundation was established for the purpose of helping rural libraries acquire quality children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Through its Books for Children Program, this foundation matches local funds to purchase up to \$1,050 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

The Foundation works with the library's Friends of the Library or other local organizations in order

to encourage community involvement and reward local support of libraries. The Friends, or other local sponsors, can contribute from \$50 to \$350 which the Foundation matches on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, a library should serve a population under 10,000, have a very limited budget, be in a rural area, and have an active children's department.

Books for Children grants will be awarded February 28, 2001; April 15, 2001; and August 15, 2001. To request an application packet, e-mail your name and your library's name and mailing address to the Libri Foundation at [librifdn@teleport.com](mailto:librifdn@teleport.com). For more information, go to [www.teleport.com/~librifdn/index.html](http://www.teleport.com/~librifdn/index.html).

### The Library Access Project

Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, L.A.Theatre Works is able to provide – free of charge – audiocassette recordings of plays performed by some of the country's most prominent and talented actors.

L.A. Theatre Works is a non-profit organization that has been producing radio drama since 1987. Their award-winning Audio Theatre Collection now includes over 300 classic and contemporary plays – the largest collection of audio theatre in the nation.

Funding of the Library Access Project will allow 500 libraries to receive recordings of five critically acclaimed plays. Each tape is packaged in durable, library-ready vinyl cases with colorful, attractive covers. Libraries will also receive publicity materials, including a sample press release, and signage.

Information about this project can be obtained by calling Laura Wolf, L.A. Theatre Works, at 310.827.0808. Information is also available at [www.latw.org/alivealoud/access.html](http://www.latw.org/alivealoud/access.html).

## 2001 CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS UNVEILED

The 2001 Newbery, Caldecott, and King awards were announced at ALA's Midwinter Conference in January. And the winners are:



Newbery Medal:

*A Year Down Yonder*, by Richard Peck

Newbery Honor Books:

*Hope Was Here*, by Joan Bauer

*The Wanderer*, by Sharon Creech

*Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo

*Joey Pigza Loses Control*, by Jack Gantos

Caldecott Medal:

*So You Want to Be President?* Illustrated by David Small. Text: Judith St. George

Caldecott Honor Books:

*Casey at the Bat*, illustrated by Christopher Bing. Text: Ernest Lawrence Thayer

*Click, Clack, Moo*, illustrated by Betsy Lewin. Text: Doreen Cronin

*Olivia*, by Ian Falconer

Coretta Scott King Author Book:

*Miracle's Boys*, by Jacqueline Woodson

Author Honor Book:

*Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Stephen Alcorn

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award:

*Uptown*, by Bryan Collier

Illustrator Honor Books:

*Freedom River*, by Bryan Collier

*Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie; text by Anne Rockwell

*Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys*, illustrated by E.B. Lewis; text by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

Named after 18th-century British bookseller John Newbery, the Newbery Medal has been handed out since 1922. The Caldecott, named after 19th-

Century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, began in 1938. The Coretta Scott King Award is named after the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King.

## PLANNING FOR EVENTS AHEAD

Don't forget the following special events and dates for library related activities:

**March 1-3** Public Library Association Spring Symposium in Chicago

**March 2** Read Across America

**March 2-3** McConnell Children's Literature Conference @ Radisson in Lexington

**March 8** Summer Reading Workshop @ Scott County Public Library in Georgetown

**March 9** Summer Reading Workshop @ Scott County Public Library in Georgetown

**March 15** Summer Reading Workshop @ Holiday Inn in Elizabethtown

**April 1-7** National Library Week

**April 11-13** Public Library Section Spring Conference @ Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville

**April 30-May 1** Library Legislative Day

**May 1** Uniform Financial Information Report (UFIR) must be submitted to Department of Local Government

## FILTERING LAW

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was signed into law on December 21. This law mandates that libraries and schools install content filters on all computers that offer Internet access. This applies to public libraries that receive funds from e-rate or receive funds available under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The law is scheduled to take effect on April 20, 2001.

The American Library Association and other organizations have initiated legal action challenging the constitutionality of CIPA. There are many complex issues regarding this legislation, including the question blocking access of adults to legally protected speech.

Because of the various legal questions, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to how this law will be implemented. KDLA is tracking its progress, and Terry Manual, Field Services Technology Consultant, will be presenting workshops throughout the state this spring.

## NEW FROM ALA

"Without The development, collection, analysis, and reporting of electronic service measures, public libraries are potentially damaging their ability to compete for scarce resources in their communities," according to the



authors in the introduction to *Statistics and Performance Measures for Public Library Networked Services*.

This long-awaited book addresses the way li-

braries collect and use statistics to measure service in light of increased electronic resources in the library.

This publication is available for purchase online at <[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)>.

## HARRY POTTER NUMBER ONE

The best-selling Harry Potter series of children's books by J.K. Rowling tops the list of books most challenged for the second year in a row, according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Harry Potter first entered the list last year, rising to the top after only three months. The number of challenges to Harry Potter reported in 2000 is triple that of 1999. The series continues to draw complaints from parents and others concerned about the books' alleged occult/Satanic theme, religious viewpoint, anti-family approach and violence.

## AND NOW IT'S DVD!

Just as the demand for music on compact discs eclipsed that of music on cassette tape, The DVD format is poised to outpace movies on videocassette in the foreseeable future. According to DVD Entertainment Group, consumers purchased 3.5 million DVD players in December 2000 – the total amount purchased in all of 1999. Sales are expected to exceed 13 million in 2001.

The DVD format offers several advantages over VHS – they require less storage space, they provide higher quality picture and sound, they have a longer shelf life, and they are less susceptible to damage.

So what is a public library to do?

- Keep those videocassettes. Approximately 85 percent of households in the U.S. have a VCR, and sales are still strong.
- Listen to the public. Was the DVD player a hot holiday gift item? Is the local demand growing?
- Explore opportunities for adding the DVD format to the library collection. The Davenport Public Library in Iowa solicited grant funds to purchase the first 250 titles in the DVD collection.

## WILD ABOUT READING

Summer Reading Program is around the corner, and this year's theme is "Wild About Reading," with a focus on the environment. The "Wild About Reading" programming manual will feature five thematic sections: adventure, plants, wild places, animals, and caring for the environment. Along with the programming manual, each library will receive a package of graphic materials. These materials will be distributed at the statewide Summer Reading workshops in March.



While the "Wild About Reading" theme lends itself to a global approach, many public librarians are planning to feature the environment of Kentucky as a point of departure for many of their reading activities. For that reason, there will be supplementary summer reading workshops presented by the Kentucky Environmental Education Council in early April at public libraries throughout the state. Watch the mail for registration material!

## READERS' ADVISORY HELP

Through the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL), libraries have access to an invaluable tool for readers' advisory – NoveList. In addition to a database of over 92,000 fiction titles, it contains feature articles, book discussion guides, booktalks, and training materials for readers' advisory services. For library staff not familiar with this resource and for all lovers of fiction, NoveList is worth a look!

To help library staff make the best use of this resource, a new service called NoveList Notes is now available. This monthly e-mail includes an eclectic collection of practical tips about using NoveList more effectively. To subscribe to this free service, send your name, position, library and address, and e-mail address to <[novelist@epnet.com](mailto:novelist@epnet.com)>.

## McCONNELL CONFERENCE

The McConnell Children's Literature Conference will be held on March 2-3, 2001 in Lexington. KDLA will send registration materials to libraries as they become available. For more information, go to <[www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/SLIS/mcconnell/mcconference.html](http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/SLIS/mcconnell/mcconference.html)>.

## POSTING REQUIREMENTS

If you are a Kentucky employer – and all public libraries are – state and federal labor regulations require the posting of the following notices in conspicuous locations:

### Federal

- Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Federal Minimum Wage Notice
- Employee Polygraph Protection Notice
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission/ Age Discrimination
- Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

### State

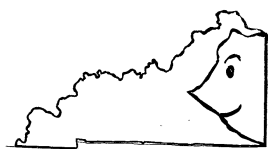
- Wage and Hour Laws
- Child Labor Laws
- Unemployment Insurance Benefits
- Wage Discrimination Because of Sex
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Safety and Health Protection on the Job

A set of three All-on-One posters is available for purchase from the Poster Compliance Center. Posters are plastic laminated and include free updates for one year. For more information, call 800.322.3636. Posters are also available free of charge from the issuing agencies.

"This will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum"

-- Elbert Hubbard

## 'CROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



All across the Commonwealth public libraries and librarians are doing remarkable things that deserve the recognition of their colleagues. This column attempts to highlight some of these. Requests for additional items are continually solicited.

The **Trimble County Public Library** will receive a KDLA Data Conversion Grant of \$10,000 to automate the library.

The Children's Services Department of the **Louisville Free Public Library** has entered into a unique partnership with the Kentuckiana Chapter of Girl Scouts of America. The Girl Scouts need technology training, and the library has a well-equipped computer training lab. Children's Services staff have developed curricula for three classes which enable Scouts to earn badges. Through this partnership, the library has the potential to provide service to an audience of over 13,000 girls.

**Anniessa Williams**, Director of the Muhlenberg County Public Libraries, has received a leadership award from the Kentucky Chapter of Business and Professional Women.

The **Whitley County Public Library** received a grant of \$5,000 from Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund. The money will be used for children's programs in the library.

The staff of the **Taylor County Public Library**, with the help of the Storyhour Homemakers, held a soup/chili luncheon, with all proceeds going to the local food pantry.

Kentucky Book Fair Grants were presented public libraries in to **Grayson County, McCracken County, Caldwell County, and Fulton County.**

## CARTER COUNTY LOSES BATTLE

In a vote of six to zero, the Carter County Fiscal Court voted in November against establishing a tax that would have funded the county's first public library. The library tax would have cost the average resident \$30 a year.

More than 2,000 signatures were presented to the Fiscal Court requesting that the library district be formed. Magistrate Carlos Wells, however, believes that residents pay enough taxes already. "I'm not anti-libraries," he told the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, "but after several weeks of study, I didn't find facts that we needed a public library." The county does have a small library, run by volunteers operating on an annual budget of \$3,000.

Carter is one of two counties in Kentucky that do not have a legally established public library. The other is McLean County, in western Kentucky.

## BROKEN PIPE DAMAGES LPL

A broken hot-water pipe caused extensive damage to the collection of the Lexington Public Library January 10. Approximately 500 books, mostly from the religion shelves, were drenched. A newspaper carrier, who saw a sheet of ice outside the library just before 6:00 A.M., first noticed the problem. Library officials are unsure why the pipe, located in the fifth-floor staff lounge, burst.

Fewer than 100 of the damaged volumes were from the library's extensive Shaker collection, and none were from the library's Shaker rare-books collection. Nevertheless, about half the damaged books are now out of print.

The library will replace as many volumes as possible. For those that cannot be replaced, the library is attempting to repair them through freeze-drying.

## LIBRARY TRIVIA CORNER

How many novels with librarians as main characters have you read? Here are a few...

Abbott, Jeff. *Do Unto Others*.  
 Coomer, Joe. *The Loop*.  
 Findley, Timothy. *Headhunter*.  
 Harris, Charlaine. *A Fool and His Honey*.  
 Hylton, Sara. *Easter at the Lakes*.  
 Kimberlin, Annie. *Romeo and Julia*.  
 Krentz, Jayne Ann. *Perfect Partners*.  
 LeClaire, Anne D. *Sideshow*.  
 Mawer, Simon. *A Jealous God*.  
 McCracken, Elizabeth. *The Giant's House*.  
 McMullen, Sean. *Souls in the Great Machine*.  
 Meier, Leslie. *Valentine Murder*.  
 Powers, Richard. *The Gold Bug Variations*.  
 Shelley, Deborah. *Talk About Love*.  
 Stone, Katherine. *Island of Dreams*.  
 Storey, Gail Donohue. *The Lord's Motel*.  
 Wiese, Jan. *The Naked Madonna*.

### In This Issue

• E-books: They're Heeeere!	1
• What If All Kentucky Reads the Same...	2
• Videotapes of Past Programs	2
• Cataloging Tip	2
• Cool Web Site	2
• Grant Opportunities for Small Libraries	3
• 2001 Children's Book Awards Announced...	4
• Planning for Events Ahead	4
• Filtering Law	5
• New from ALA	5
• Harry Potter Number One	5
• And Now It's DVD	5
• Wild About Reading	6
• Readers' Advisory Help	6
• McConnell Conference	6
• Posting Requirements	6
• 'Cross the Commonwealth	7
• Carter County Loses Battle	7
• Broken Pipe Damages LPL	7
• Regional News	Insert

**Kentucky Department for Libraries  
 and Archives  
 300 Coffee Tree Road  
 P O Box 537  
 Frankfort, KY 42602-0537**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**  
**PLEASE FORWARD**